

# ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS GREG ABBOTT

# **Family Initiatives**

a catalyst for family-centered child support

Family Initiatives, Child Support Division
Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas



## Title IV- D of Social Security Act (1975):

Child Support Agency must:

Locate Parents
Establish Paternity
Establish Orders
Enforce Orders

"Children can count on their parents for the financial, medical, and emotional support they need to be healthy and successful." (OCSE Vision Statement)



# Enforcement Centered or Family Centered?

 Non-marital birth as legal hurdle to order establishment



Non-marital birth in context of forming family

Lack of payment = willful noncompliance



Lack of payment often = economic capacity – informal relationships

 Rigid emphasis on the de-linking of \$ and emotional support



 Recognition, acknowledgment and response to the connection



# Family Centered Child Support Innovations – Texas Style

Shared Parenting

Father and Noncustodial Parent Involvement

Forming
Families and
Youth
Education



## **Child Support Review Process**

- CSRP enables the OAG to take expedited administrative actions to establish, modify, and enforce child support and medical support obligations, to determine parentage
- Now CSRP notice incorporates parenting resource for advance information
- Parents meet with child support officer to discuss and prepare agreed order in lieu of parents appearing in court
- After attorney review, submitted for court approval and judge's signature



## **Shared Parenting Conferences**

Office of the Attorney General\_
CSRP notification letter states
Parenting Facilitators available
Child Support Officer referral



View For Our Children DVD

Parent Education
By co-parenting
facilitator

Domestic Violence Screened By CSO

Information
Packet, Calendar
& Brochures



#### **Court Referral**

Inappropriate for Cooperative Parenting Conference

Parent
Conference(s)
(Dispute Resolution opportunity onsite)

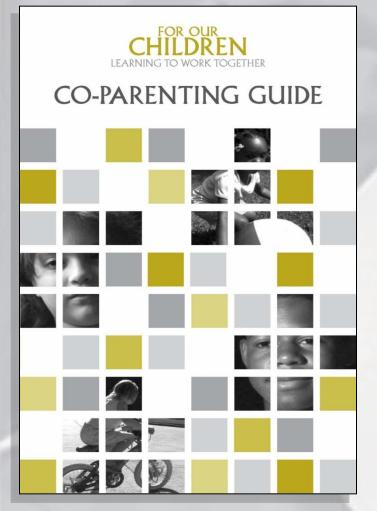


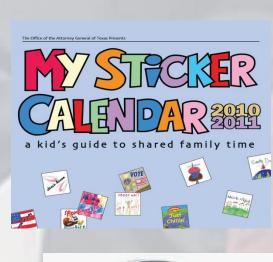
#### **Court Order Parent Education**

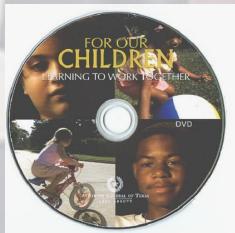
- Brief, live presentation conducted at court immediately prior to court hearings to establish paternity and/or child support orders (if no CSRP agreement)
- Explain content of court orders in plain language
  - → Address common confusions and misunderstandings that parents experience
- Answer parents' questions
  - → Reduce the number of parents who require attention by court personnel respectful process for BOTH parents
  - → Improve flow of cases at court
- Deepen understandings parents have about their orders and consequences of noncompliance
  - → Improve compliance with court orders
  - → ADR opportunity available onsite afterward (El Paso & Bexar counties—SIP project in Travis and Harris counties—all IV-D Judges have tools to replicate).



# **Publications**























### **Publications**



A parent's guide to the legal side of fatherhood and financial support

#### Fact or Eigeton?

n Texas, children born to unmarried parents do not have the same legal right to their fathers as children born to married parents.

#### Fact

Under Texas law, unmarried parents can give their children

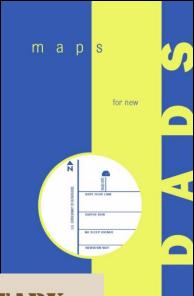
Sand on to love more about establishing nationing



The First Nine Months Fatherhood:

Paternal Contributions to Maternal and Child Health Outcomes





MILITARY
PARENTS
PATERNITY,
CHILD SUPPORT,
CUSTODY &

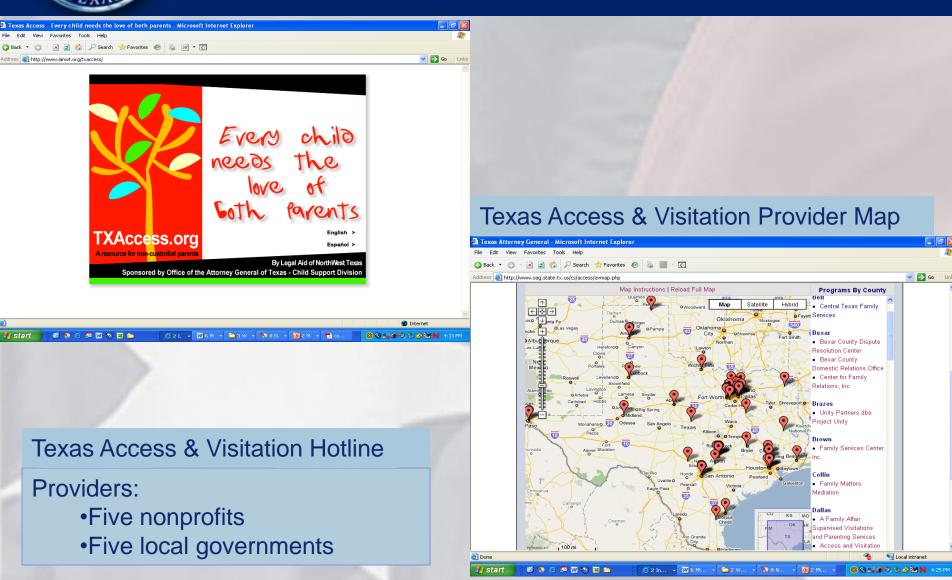
PARENTING TIME

A Report of the Findings from the First National Conference of Emerging Research and Practice on Prenatal Father Involvement





### **Online Resources**





#### **Thank You!**

For more information contact:

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Office of the Attorney General www.texasattorneygeneral.gov